

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims**

1-20. (canceled)

21. (previously presented) A composition comprising an isolated peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. ( currently amended) A composition comprising an isolated hepatitis C virus core polypeptide comprising an L→ A substitution at amino acid position 139 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

23. (currently amended) A composition comprising an isolated hepatitis C virus core polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

24. (currently amended) A composition comprising an isolated fragment of a hepatitis C virus core polypeptide having fewer amino acids than the entire hepatitis C virus core polypeptide, comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

25. (previously presented) A composition comprising an isolated nucleic acid encoding the peptide of claim 21 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

26. (previously presented) A composition comprising an isolated nucleic acid encoding the peptide of claim 22 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

27. (previously presented) A composition comprising an isolated nucleic acid encoding the peptide of claim 23 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

28. (previously presented) A composition comprising an isolated nucleic acid encoding the peptide of claim 24 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

29. (currently amended) A composition comprising ~~the~~ an isolated vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 25 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

30. (currently amended) A composition comprising an isolated vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 26 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

31. (currently amended) A composition comprising an isolated vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 27 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

32. (currently amended) A composition comprising an isolated vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 28 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

33-72. (canceled)